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EARSDON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1898.

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North Shields:

W. J. POTTS, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, BEDFORD STREET.

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EARSDON,

4TH FEBRUARY, 1899.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
Earsdon Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward you my Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1898.

**POPULATION.**

The population of the District according to the census of 1891 was 7,471, and estimated to the middle of the year 1898 is 8,650.

**AREA.**

The total area of the District is 4,711 acres.

**DEATHS.**

One hundred and thirty-nine deaths have been reported to me, which gives a death rate of 18·6 per thousand per annum, estimated upon the 1891 census, and one of 16·06 per thousand per annum on the estimated population to the middle of 1898.

In 1897 the death rate was 16·24 per thousand per annum on the estimated population.

**BIRTHS.**

Two hundred and ninety-five births were registered, giving a birth rate of 39·48 per thousand per annum upon the census of 1891, and a rate of 34·1 per thousand per annum upon the estimated population to the middle of 1898.

In 1897 the birth rate was 32·31 per thousand per annum upon the estimated population.

The following table shows the estimated population, and the number of births and deaths that have taken place in each Township of the District:—

Township.	Estimated Population.	Births.	Deaths.
Earsdon .. ..	2,358	116	40
Backworth .. ..	2,375	48	30
Holywell .. ..	3,167	112	57
Murton .. ..	758	19	12
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>8,650</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>139</b>

The deaths reported to me arose from the causes, and at the places indicated by the subjoined table:—

	Earsdon.	Back-worth.	Holywell.	Murton.	Whole District.
Bronchitis .. ..	2	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia & Pleurisy .. ..	2	3	2	1	8
Phthisis .. ..	5	3	6	1	15
Heart Disease .. ..	3	4	4	0	11
Diarrhoea .. ..	4	2	5	2	13
Whooping Cough .. ..	0	1	1	0	2
Typhoid Fever .. ..	0	0	2	0	2
Injuries .. ..	1	0	1	0	2
Influenza .. ..	3	1	1	0	5
Other Causes .. ..	20	16	35	8	79
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>139</b>

Table showing the number of deaths which occurred in each Township during each quarter of the year, also the ages in groups at which the deaths took place:—

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 169 per thousand births.

## ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

Seventeen deaths have occurred from Zymotic Disease, which gives a death rate of 1·96 per thousand per annum, estimated to the middle of 1898.

Appended is a statistical table of deaths, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

Also table of population, births, and of new cases of infectious disease, which have come to my knowledge during the year, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Erysipelas, Influenza, and Whooping Cough, have occurred at the places, and in the months indicated below.

### SCARLET FEVER.

**EARSDON.**—Two cases have occurred, one in January and one in February.

**BACKWORTH.**—One case occurred in March.

**HOLYWELL.**—Thirty-nine cases have occurred, seven in January, eleven in February, nine in March, nine in April, one in June, one in July, and one in December.

This disease being of a very infectious nature is liable to spread in a colliery district owing to the great difficulty experienced in keeping neighbours from visiting infected houses.

The disease was of a very mild type, especially at Holywell, and there were no fatal cases.

### TYPHOID FEVER.

**EARSDON.**—One case occurred in November.

**HOLYWELL.**—Four cases occurred, two in September, one in October, and one in November.

The first case of this disease to occur in the district was at Middle Row, Bates' Cottages. The patient, a young man, had recently come from New Delaval, where he had been living, and where he probably contracted the disease.

The cases at Holywell were of a severe type, and two deaths occurred.

The case at Shire Moor was a mild type.

## ERYSIPelas.

**BACKWORTH.**—One case occurred in March.

**HOLYWELL.**—Three cases occurred, one in February, one in March, and one in September.

## INFLUENZA.

Influenza has been prevalent in the District. It was of a severe type, and five deaths have been recorded from it.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the Holywell and Backworth Townships, during the last three months of the year.

**MURTON TOWNSHIP** has been quite free from infectious disease.

The greatest number of notified or ascertained cases of infectious disease, viz. 13, was in February. No cases were notified during May and August.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply for your district is principally derived from Whittle Dene. It is of good quality and the supply has been constant.

The houses at Lane Side, and Fenwick's Close, near Earsdon, which formerly derived their supply from a well at the roadside, are now supplied with Whittle Dene Water, 1000 yards of piping having been laid at a cost of £110.

The Whittle Dene water has also been supplied to the Backworth Lane Side, and High Farms, 1,700 yards of piping have been laid at a cost of £160.

The supply of water to Murton and New York, which was not satisfactory, has been considerably improved by 700 yards of 3 inch piping having been laid at a cost of £91.

## DRAINAGE.

The Flushing Tank situated near the Institute, Bates' Cottages, has been altered so that it can now be used for flushing the drain of every row at Bates' Cottages, instead of only one row as before.

A sewer has been constructed at a cost of about £25 for the new houses at Bertram Place.

All Branch Drains in connection with the new houses erected in your district during the year, have been properly trapped.

## SEWERAGE.

The Irrigation Ground at Earsdon is in fairly good order, but owing to the large increase of population it is receiving rather more liquid sewage than it should do, which is apt to make the land sodden, and incapable of proper filtration.

The Irrigation ground at Holywell is in better condition and doing its work more effectively.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These I have regularly examined in company with your Sanitary Inspector, and found most of them in fairly good order..

Some of them were deficient in cubic space and provision for ventilation, and required whitewashing.

## SCAVENGING.

Great difficulty is still experienced in getting the privies and ash pits properly attended to.

In some parts of the district they have been so bad as to be a constant source of danger to the health of the public.

Several new houses have been erected in the Earsdon Township during the year, which have all the necessary sanitary arrangements.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

As I have often pointed out in my monthly reports, isolation is impossible in a colliery district, where many of their houses contain only one or two rooms, and that the only way to prevent the spread of infectious disease is to provide an Isolation Hospital. I am glad that your Council are now providing such an Hospital, which is approaching completion.

The Hospital which is being built of corrugated iron has accommodation for twelve beds, and is being fitted with all the necessary requirements.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

TAYLOR DIXON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

(A)

*TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Earsdon Urban District classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.*

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

*Area and Population of the District or  
Division to which this Return relates.*

Area in Acres **4,711**.

Population (Last Census) **7,471**.

"	(Estimated to middle of 1898)	<b>8,650</b>
Death Rates.	General <b>16·06</b> .	{ per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1898.
	Infant (under one year of age <b>169</b> )	{ per 1,000 Births Registered.

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In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

**TAYLOR DIXON,**

*Medical Officer of Health*

February 4th, 1899.

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1898, in the Earsdon Urban District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAME OF LOCALITY adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a.)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births. (d.)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e.)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.													
	Census 1891. (b.)	Estimated to middle of 1898. (c.)			Smallpox. 1.	Scarlatina 2.	Diphtheria 3.	Membranous Croup. 4.	Typhus 5.	Enteric or Con-tinued. 6.	Typhoid 7.	Relaps-ing. 8.	Puerperal. 9.	Cholera. 10.	Erysipelas 11.	Puerperal. 12.	Smallpox. 1.	Scarlatina 2.	Diphtheria 3.	Membranous Croup. 4.	Typhus 5.	Enteric or Typhoid Con-tinued. 6.	Relaps-ing. 7.	Puerperal. 8.	Cholera. 10.	Erysipelas 11.	Diarrhoea 12.	13.			
EARSDON.....	1819	2350	116	Under 5 5 upwds.		2				1																					
BACKWORTH.....	2240	2375	48	Under 5 5 upwds.		1									1																
HOLYWELL.....	2782	3167	112	Under 5 5 upwds.	15										4																
MURTON .....	630	758	19	Under 5 5 upwds.																											
				Under 5 5 upwds.																											
				Under 5 5 upwds.																											
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				Under 5 5 upwds.																											
TOTALS.	7471	8650	295	Under 5 5 upwds.	15										1																
					27					5					3																

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. Yes. Since when? July, 1897. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated. In course of construction.

